

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in this Chamber on July 6, 2004. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 326 and 327.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4754) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member SERRANO for all their hard work in putting the Commerce-State-Justice and Related Agencies Appropriations bill together. This legislation, while never perfect, includes important funding for programs helping our local economies grow, and keeping our communities safe.

I particularly commend the Appropriations Committee for providing \$106 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program within the Department of Commerce's National Institutes of Standards and Technology. Through a national network of manufacturing extension centers, MEP is designed to benefit domestic manufacturers by providing expertise and services tailored to their most critical needs. This includes assistance in process improvements, worker training, and information technology applications. In Wisconsin, MEP has served over 110 firms. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration has repeatedly cut funding for MEP; the President's budget request has consistently cut funding for MEP, proposing an 83 percent reduction in FY04 and a 60 percent reduction in FY05.

In western Wisconsin, the Northwest Manufacturing Outreach Center (NWMOC), one of two MEP Centers in Wisconsin, has provided assistance to more than 900 companies over the past 10 years. Frank Borg, Joe Benkowski, and their team at NWMOC travel throughout northern Wisconsin helping companies ensure businesses are able to compete and grow in the global marketplace. Restoring funding to \$106 million is critical to MEP's success in Wisconsin and throughout the Nation.

I also want to thank the Committee for restoring funding for State and local law enforcement activities which the President's budget proposed slashing by over 80 percent. The legislation restores funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants and Byrne Discretionary Grants. In addition, the legislation rejects drastic cuts proposed by the President for the COPS program. In western Wisconsin,

and throughout the Nation, the COPS program is more important than ever. As many rural law enforcement offices are being called up for service in the National Guard and military Reserves, the COPS program provides resources necessary to help communities meet law enforcement challenges.

In addition, the legislation provides \$60 million to help fight methamphetamine production and distribution. Methamphetamine abuse has been increasing in rural Wisconsin, and we must continue to help fight against this dangerous drug.

Mr. Chairman, the legislation before us provides many important resources for our local communities, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

TRIBUTE TO TONY NAPOLET

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Tony Napolet. Coach Napolet was recently recognized as Man of the Year by The Mahoning Valley Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame. Born on July 4, 1938 in Warren, Ohio, Mr. Napolet has long been an active leader in our community.

His service and leadership in the community began with his football career at St. Mary's High School in Warren, where in his senior year he led his team as captain. Mr. Napolet went on to play football while attending Marquette University where he received his undergraduate degree in Education, beginning a career dedicated to teaching both in and out of the classroom. He started his football coaching career at Marquette while studying at Marquette Law School. Returning to Ohio in 1961, Coach Nap taught at Harry B. Turner Junior High School while coaching the football, basketball and track teams. His amazing coaching skills and extraordinary dedication to the sport led to his first head football coaching assignment at JFK High School in 1970. Coach Napolet went on to coach at a number of different schools over the years, including a position at St. Mary's Middle School, which he describes as one of the most rewarding experiences he has had in athletics.

In 1990, Coach Napolet returned as head football coach at JFK High School. Thanks to his impressive leadership, his first year back resulted in the Kennedy Eagles winning the State Championship. During the sixteen years as the Eagles' head coach, Mr. Napolet has had seven playoff appearances and has won 124 out of 180 games.

It is also with great honor that I recognize the members of Coach Napolet's family: his three children: Harold, Mario, and Natalie; and his grandchildren: Aarika Marie, Anthony Mauro, Mario Anthony and Olivia Rose. I am pleased to know Coach Napolet and to consider him a friend. He is well known for his community work at St. Mary's Church and his constant involvement in many church affiliated projects.

His longstanding support of local baseball, basketball, and football teams has allowed the community's youth to participate actively in sports. Mr. Napolet is a proud descendant of Italian-Americans, and on behalf of the people

of the 17th Congressional District, I want to thank Mr. Napolet for his outstanding commitment to our youth, education, and community. Mr. Napolet stands as an inspiration for all of us.

RECOGNIZING THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL FOR ITS 14TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR IN TOPPING U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT'S RANKING OF AMERICA'S HOSPITALS

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 9, 2004

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise the 14th consecutive year that the Johns Hopkins Hospital has topped U.S. News & World Report's assessments of American hospitals. This distinction places them in the company of well-respected hospitals such as the Mayo Clinic and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Located in my district in Baltimore, Maryland, Johns Hopkins Hospital ranks in the top ten for 16 out of the 17 specialty categories including: # 1 in Gynecology, Otolaryngology and Urology; #2 in Geriatrics, Kidney Disease, Neurology/Neurosurgery, Ophthalmology and Rheumatology; #3 in Cancer, Digestive Disorders, Hormonal Disorders, Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Respiratory Disorders; and #4 in Heart/Heart Surgery and Orthopedics.

Time and time again Johns Hopkins has been noted as one of the country's best hospitals, boasting some of the world's most renowned surgeons, notably my friend, Dr. Ben Carson—so it is no surprise that Hopkins has once again received this great distinction.

Though these rankings bode well for the institution, the true recipients of these accolades are the doctors, nurses and staff. These people commit their time and energy to the work of the Hospital and the patients, and it is their professional excellence, like the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry (won by Peter Agre), for the first triple-swap kidney transplant and other similar distinctions, that encouraged this collective recognition of Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, this recognition represents Johns Hopkins Hospital's commendable strides to improve development and to encourage the most conducive working environments. In 2003, the Hospital increased its infrastructure development as they moved scientists into a \$140 million research building—the new front door to the School of Medicine—and broke ground on a second Cancer Research Building. Also, construction commenced on infrastructure for two patient care towers at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and at the Howard County General Hospital to open larger inpatient operating rooms, while the suburban outpatient facilities continue to expand.

In addition to this development, Hopkins Hospital has continually supported excellence in global education and healthcare—evident in the Hospital's 2003 opening of its first overseas division in Singapore where twelve full-time faculty members will lead training and research on diseases endemic to Southeast Asia.

Consistent with its desire to curb pandemic crisis abroad, Hopkins Medical has taken an